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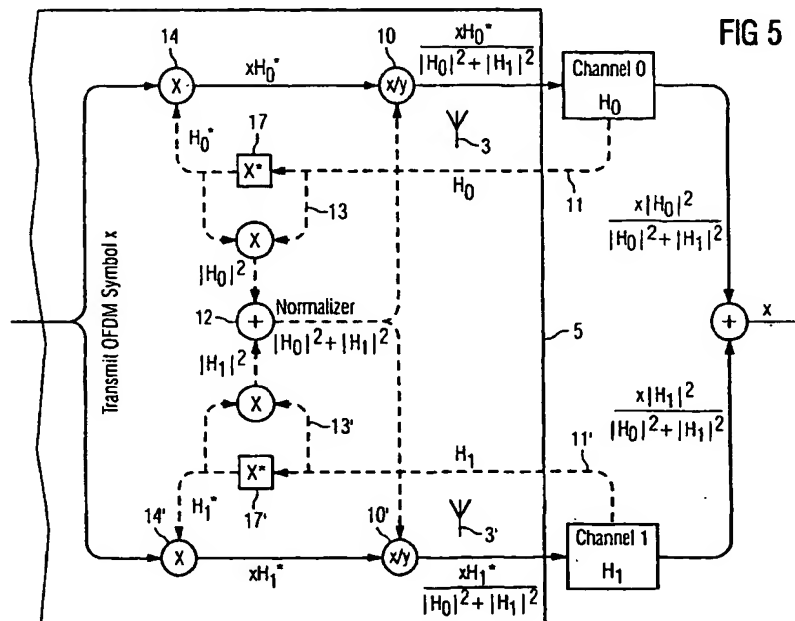
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(54) OFDM system with antenna diversity in the transmitter and pre-equalisation

(57) The transmission characteristics of subcarriers of a multicarrier transmission system (OFDM) using a plurality of antenna elements (antenna diversity) (3,3') can be adjusted. Particularly the power and the phase of the subcarriers can be adapted. To this object the sub-carrier frequency channel (2,2') characteristics of the multicarrier transmission are detected (11,11') at the

side of the transmitter (3). The power of each subcarrier is then distributed by a weighting unit (14,14'). The subcarriers can be further pre-equalized (1,1') by dividing the subcarrier signal respectively by the sum of the squared magnitude of the frequency channel characteristics of all subcarrier signals or a frequency characteristic of the selected antenna element (3,3').



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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a method for adjusting the transmission characteristics of subcarriers of a multicarrier transmission system using a plurality of antenna elements, to a computer software program product for implementing such a method when run on a computing device of a transmitting device, a transmission diversity device as well as to a base station comprising such a transmission diversity device.

[0002] To reduce interference from other transmitters, the transmission power should be as small as possible in any wireless transmission system. The background of the present invention is the reduction of transmission power in multicarrier systems and particularly the reduction of transmission power of OFDM wireless (LAN) systems. According to these systems a plurality of antenna elements share the transmission power. The transmission power of each subcarrier of the multicarrier transmission system can be adjusted such that the receiver can get a flat spectrum. In case sub-carriers are fading at all the antenna elements, these subcarriers should be transmitted with less power.

[0003] From EP 0 932 285 A2 a technique for the reduction of instantaneous maximum power in multicarrier signals is known. According to this technique from a serial-to-parallel converting part, complex information sub-carrier signals based on an information bit sequence are outputted to a fast inverse Fourier transforming part. The fast inverse Fourier transforming part gives fast inverse Fourier transformation to inputted sub-carrier signals to obtain a complex baseband time waveform of OFDM symbols. A complex redundant subcarrier signal generating part generates complex redundant sub-carrier signals to reduce amplitude of a complex baseband time waveform of OFDM symbols, and makes them undergo fast inverse Fourier transformation together with complex information subcarrier signals. With these processes, the amplitude of a complex baseband time waveform of OFDM symbols is reduced and instantaneous maximum power is also reduced.

[0004] From WO 97/26743 a multicarrier communication system and method for peak power control is known. According to this technique a communication device for simultaneously transmitting information on multiple sub-channels encodes information for each of the multiple sub-channels with a coding scheme to produce channel encoded information. A mask vector derived from a redundancy in the coding scheme encodes the channel encoded information to transform the channel encoded information into codewords having pairwise Euclidean distance properties identical to those of the channel encoded information. Modulation of the sub-channels in accordance with the codewords in a modulators then produces a composite signal envelope having a peak-to-mean envelope power ratio reduced relative to a power ratio for correspondingly modulated channel encoded information.

[0005] From EP-0 881 782 A2 a single carrier maximum-ratio synthetic transmission diversity device as shown in figure 8 is known. According to this known transmission diversity device antenna elements are arranged at intervals greater than $\lambda/2$. A signal received by an antenna element is sent by way of an antenna multiplexer to a receiver, where the signal is demodulated. The thus-demodulated signal is sent to a phase and power detection section, where a phase and power of the signal are detected. On the basis of the result of such detection, a control section calculated the phase and power of a transmission signal. On the basis of the result of the calculation, a transmission signal generation circuit transmits a transmission signal to each of the antenna elements by way of the antenna multiplexer.

[0006] Note that the technique of EP 0 881 782 A2 claiming the calculation of the phase of a signal of each antenna cannot be applied to the multicarrier case, but only to a single carrier case, as it is impossible to measure phases of received signals if there are more than two carriers.

[0007] In single carrier applications the phase of the signal changes frequently as the symbols are transmitted serially. Therefore it is difficult to compare phases between different antennas, as the phase is not varying uniformly. Therefore in singles carrier applications a phase comparison is preferably done using pilot symbols which phases are varying uniformly or which are known.

[0008] From US 5,973,642 adaptive antenna arrays for orthogonal frequency division multiplexing systems (OFDM systems) with co-channel interference is known. According to this known technique parameters for adaptive antenna arrays in OFDM systems with co-channel interference are estimated. The channel parameter estimation is performed using a two pass process that advantageously expands the temporal scope and considers past, present and future temporal channel estimations during parameter estimation. Channel parameters are estimated by processing the signals through fast Fourier transforms, temporal filters and inverse fast Fourier transforms. The temporal filters optimize parameters estimation based upon instantaneous correlation of the received signals. This all takes place on the receiver's side of the OFDM system.

[0009] The technique of transmission antenna selection of OFDM subcarrier using power measurement of received subcarriers in a TDD system is known of the Japanese patent 11(1999)-205205 of NTT Docomo.

[0010] High speed radio systems use a very wide radio bandwidth. Therefore, the channel characteristics cannot be flat for all subcarriers over the wide radio band even in short delay environment. Therefore, usually it is not possible to use a complicated modulation scheme such as 16 or 64 QAM for all subcarriers. On the other hand, any radio communication system suffers from interference from other communication transmitters.

[0011] Principally a subcarrier which is in fading can

be transmitted with stronger power. This solves the bit error problems, but causes interference with other receivers and therefore reduces the total capacity of the system.

[0012] In view of the above-captioned prior art and problems it is the object of the present invention to propose a technique which is particularly adapted for lowering the transmission power in a multicarrier system such as the OFDM system without decreasing the overall bit rate.

[0013] This object is achieved by means of the features of the independent claims. The dependent claims develop further the central idea of the present invention.

[0014] According to a first aspect of the present invention therefore a method for adjusting the transmission characteristics of subcarriers of a multicarrier transmission system using a plurality of antenna elements is proposed. On the transmitting side the subcarrier frequency channel characteristics of the multicarrier transmission is detected. Then the power of each subcarrier is distributed to the antenna elements by multiplying (weighting) it (by) the complex conjugate of the corresponding subcarrier frequency channel or [0, 1] value according to the decision which antenna is selected for the corresponding subcarrier to make the communication more efficient. Therefore depending on the detected frequency channel characteristics at each antenna element for each subcarrier signal the antenna element having the best channel characteristics for said subcarrier signal can be used for transmission.

[0015] The power of the subcarriers can furthermore be pre-equalized on the transmitter side by dividing the sub-carrier signals respectively by the sum of the squared magnitude of the frequency channel characteristics of all antenna elements or by the magnitude of the frequency channel characteristics of the selected antenna.

[0016] Along with the pre-equalizing furthermore the phase of the subcarrier signals can be respectively compensated for at the transmission side according to the detected frequency channel characteristics.

[0017] Alternatively or additionally, the phase can be compensated for at the receiving side.

[0018] The pre-equalization of the power of the subcarrier signal can be limited to an upper threshold value.

[0019] In case along with the pre-equalization the upper threshold is reached for a subcarrier signal, the transmission power of the corresponding subcarrier signal is fixed at the upper threshold value. Instead of further raising the transmission power the modulation scheme for said subcarrier is adapted.

[0020] The adaptation of the modulation scheme of a subcarrier signal can be signaled to the receiving side.

[0021] To adapt the modulation scheme of a subcarrier signal, the modulation scheme can be simplified or the subcarrier signal can even not be modulated at all.

[0022] In case in a modulation scheme a subcarrier signal is adapted such that the bit rate of the subcarrier

signal is reduced, the modulation scheme of at least one other sub-carrier signal can be changed to a more complex modulation scheme.

[0023] The detection of the frequency channel characteristics can be performed on the basis of received pilot symbols.

[0024] According to a further aspect of the present invention a computer software program product implementing a method as set forth above when run on a computing device of a transmitter is proposed.

[0025] According to a still further aspect of the present invention a transmission diversity device adapt for adjusting the transmission characteristics of subcarriers of a multi-carrier transmission system and having a plurality of antenna elements is proposed. The transmission diversity device comprises means for detecting the frequency subcarrier channel characteristics of the multicarrier transmission. Furthermore, it comprises a means for distributing the power of each subcarrier is distributed to the antenna elements by multiplying (weighting) it (by) the complex conjugate of the corresponding subcarrier frequency channel or [0, 1] value according to the decision which antenna is selected for the corresponding subcarrier.

[0026] The equalizer can be furthermore adapted to divide the sub-carrier signals respectively by the sum of the squared magnitude of the frequency channel characteristics of all antenna elements or by the magnitude of the frequency channel characteristics of the selected antenna.

[0027] The device can furthermore comprise a pre-equalizer with a phase compensation function for adjusting the phase of the subcarriers respectively according to the detected frequency channel characteristics.

[0028] The pre-equalizer can limit the power of the subcarrier to an upper threshold. The device can be a base station of a wireless transmission system, such as the OFDM system.

[0029] Further features, objects and advantages of the present invention will become evident for the man skilled in the art when reading the following detailed description of embodiments of the present invention taken in conjunction with the figures of the enclosed drawings.

Figure 1 shows a pre-equalization technique using one antenna,

Figure 2 shows an antenna selection technique without equalizing,

Figure 3 shows the maximum ratio combining (MRC) technique in the case of two antennas,

Figure 4 shows an antenna selection technique together with a pre-equalizing applied to the case of two antennas on the transmitting side,

Figure 5 shows the maximum ratio combining tech-

nique with pre-equalizing applied to the case of two antennas, and

Figure 6 shows an example to explained the function of a MRC pre-equalizer with two antennas.

[0030] For the sake of clarity at first some technical terms will be shortly explained: "TX diversity" designates the distribution of the power of a transmission signal on a plurality of antenna elements. The distribution of the power can be achieved f.e. by means of an antenna selection or a MRC (Maximum ratio combining) technique. According to the antenna selection technique, the entire power of the transmission signal is supplied to one antenna element, whereas according to the MRC technique the power is distributed according to the channel response, wherein both the amplitude and/or the phase of the channel response vector can be taken into account.

[0031] Following the TX diversity block, according to the invention a "pre-equalizer" can be provided at the transmitter side. The pre-equalizer can modify subcarriers of a multicarrier transmission system such that they arrive equally (in amplitude and/or phase) at the receiving side.

[0032] Finally on the receiving side an equalizer can be provided to equalize all received subcarriers in amplitude and/or phase (but of course not the modulation constellation).

[0033] With reference to figure 1 at first the pre-equalizing technique for one antenna will be explained. An OFDM symbol vector

$$x = [x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots]$$

is transmitted by means of an antenna 3 of a transmitter 5 over a wireless channel 2 to an antenna 4 of a receiver 6. The channel response of the channel 2 can be represented as a vector H_0 , wherein each vector element is associated with one frequency subcarrier channel:

$$H_0 = [h_{00}, h_{01}, h_{02}, \dots]$$

[0034] In the shown pre-equalization technique, the channel response vector H_0 representing the channel characteristics for both amplitude (fading) and phase (phase shift) can be detected 11 in a pilot phase by means of a evaluation of the transmitted symbol xH_0 (without pre-equalization). The channel response vector H_0 is used in a pre-equalizer 1 such that a pre-equalized symbol vector x/H_0 is actually transmitted and the original OFDM symbol vector x is thus received at the antenna 4 of the receiver 6. As shown the pre-equalization is effected based on the knowledge of the channel response vector H_0 .

[0035] Figure 2 shows an antenna selection tech-

nique in the case of an application to two antenna elements 3, 3'. The OFDM symbol vector x is at first supplied to each of the antennas 3, 3' to be transmitted over two different channels H_0, H_1 (references 2, 2').

[0036] The channel response vectors H_0, H_1 of the two channels 2, 2' are respectively detected 11, 11' for example by means of an evaluation of pilot symbols transmitted from the receiver 6 to the transmitter 5 and the squared magnitude of the channel response vectors $|H_0|^2$ and $|H_1|^2$ is respectively calculated. Depending on the calculated squared magnitude of the channel response vector H_0 and H_1 , a decision/selection unit 7 decides and selects the best suited antenna element 3 or 3' for each subcarrier. To achieve this object the decision/selection unit 7 outputs for example bit strings 13 and 13', respectively, which are then multiplied in multiplying units 8, 8' with the input OFDM symbol vector x . According to this technique the best suited antenna element for each subcarrier can be chosen, i.e. the antenna element with the best channel response (inverse of the squared magnitude of the channel response vector) of each subcarrier is chosen.

[0037] Figure 3 shows a maximum ratio combining (MRC) technique applied on a two antenna transmission system. As shown in figure 3 again a channel response vector H_0 and H_1 is detected 11, 11' and the complex conjugate 17, 17' of the channel response H_0^* and H_1^* , respectively is multiplied by a weighing unit 14, 14' with the OFDM symbol vector x to be transmitted. This weighting unit 14, 14' for each antenna element 3, 3' provides for a TX antenna distribution by applying an appropriate weight. The power of the subcarrier channels is therefore distributed to each antenna element proportionally to each channel response. The phase of the signal can also be adjusted at TX antenna elements 3, 3', so that the phase at all distributed signals from different antenna elements 3, 3' can meet equally the receiving antenna 4.

[0038] According to the present invention an antenna diversity and an pre-equalizing step can be additionally used at the transmitter. The transmitter antenna diversity technique includes the above explained TX antenna selection technique and maximum ratio combining (MRC) method.

[0039] With reference to figure 4 to 6 now the normalizing of the transmission power of each subcarrier will be explained.

[0040] Figure 4 shows an antenna selection technique combined with the pre-equalizing and applied to a two antenna system.

[0041] As the sub-units of the transmitter 5 shown in figure 4 have already been explained with reference to figures 1, 2 and 3, the same reference signs are used in figure 4 and reference is made to the cited figures. As shown in figure 4, after the selection of a transmission antenna element 3, 3', each subcarrier channel is divided in a division (pre-equalizing) unit 1, 1' by the channel response vector H_0 of the selected channel.

[0042] The subcarrier channel can alternatively be divided by the magnitude of the selected channel (see reference 16, 16' in figure 4). In this case only the power profile of the channel is compensated for. If only the power profile, but not the phase of the channel is compensated, the phase of the channel can be compensated at the receiver side 6.

[0043] Figure 5 shows a further embodiment of the present invention according to which the maximum ratio combining (MRC) technique is combined with a pre-equalizing and applied to a two antenna 3, 3' system. In addition to the system shown in figure 3 each channel is pre-equalized 10, 10'. As shown in figure 5 the squared magnitude of each of the channel response vectors H_0 and H_1 of each subcarrier channel is calculated 13, 13'. An adding unit 12 then adds up the calculated squared magnitude of all channel response vectors and supplies the result to further pre-equalizing units 10, 10'.

[0044] Respectively one further pre-equalizing unit 10, 10' is provided for each channel 2, 2' dividing the pre-equalized sub-carrier channel xH_0 and xH_1 , respectively, by the sum of the squared magnitudes of the channel response vectors H_0 and H_1 .

[0045] As the weighting units 14, 14' use the complex conjugate of the channel response vector H_0 and H_1 , according to the embodiment of figure 5 both the amplitude (fading) and the phase (phase shift) of the respective channel is compensated for. Therefore, after the distribution to all antenna elements 3, 3', the distributed subcarrier signal can be pre-equalized 10, 10'.

[0046] A relatively high transmission power which may cause interference can be required in some subcarrier channels. These subcarrier channels are those which present a fading dip with all antenna elements 3, 3'. Using a plurality of antenna elements 3, 3', the number of subcarrier channels which require a high transmission power can be dramatically reduced compared to a single antenna case.

[0047] As a measure to further decrease the interference problem, the transmission power can be limited by the equalizers 1, 1' at a certain upper threshold value. In case the equalization step results in a transmission power judging said threshold value, the transmission power is no longer increased but the modulation scheme is changed to a simple one in the corresponding subcarrier channels. Therefore, the pre-equalization is only done until the predetermined power threshold value is reached. At this predetermined power threshold level value the transmission power is limited to prevent interference to increase. Instead of further increasing the transmission power of the sub-carrier channel, a simpler modulation scheme is used to those subcarrier channels or these subcarrier channels are not modulated at all to prevent bit errors to be generated. The use of a simpler modulation scheme for some of the subcarrier channels results in a reduced bit rate which can be compensated for by changing the modulation scheme in oth-

er sub-carriers (which are in better condition) to a more complicated one.

[0048] This modulation scheme shift (adaptation) can be cited for example at the transmitter (base station) side and then signaled to the other side (for example mobile station).

[0049] The channel responses can particularly be estimated from received pilot symbols.

[0050] The main advantage of the present invention is that the error rate can be reduced for example by means of the pre-equalization. At the same time the transmission power can be reduced by a combination of pre-equalization or antenna selection or MRC technique. By means of an adaptive modulation technique the transmission power can be further limited. Therefore, the capacity of a network can be increased all by keeping the quality of each communication constant.

20 Claims

1. Method for adjusting the transmission characteristics of subcarriers of a multi-carrier transmission system using a plurality of antenna elements, the method comprising the following steps at the transmitting side:

- detecting (11, 11') the subcarrier frequency channel (2, 2') characteristics of the multicarrier transmission, and
- pre-equalizing (1, 1', 10, 10') the power of each subcarrier by dividing it by the amplitude characteristics of the corresponding subcarrier frequency channel (2, 2') or all subcarrier frequency channels to compensate for the power profile of the channel(s) (2, 2').

2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that

in the step of pre-equalizing the power of the subcarriers is divided (10, 10') by the sum (9) of the squared magnitude of the frequency channel characteristics of all subcarrier signals.

3. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that

in the step of pre-equalizing the transmission signal is divided (1, 1') by the magnitude of the complex conjugate of the channel response vector.

4. Method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that

in the pre-equalizing step (1, 1') furthermore the phase of the subcarrier signals is respectively compensated at the transmission side according to the detected frequency channel characteristics (11, 11').

5. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
depending on the detected frequency channel characteristics (11, 11') at each antenna element (3, 3') for each subcarrier signal the antenna element (3, 3') having the best channel characteristics (11, 11') for said subcarrier signal is used for transmission (2, 2').
6. Method according to anyone of claims 1 to 4,
characterized in that
the power of the transmission signal is distributed to all antenna elements according to the subcarrier frequency characteristics of the corresponding antenna element (3, 3').
7. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
the pre-equalization (1, 1') of the power of the subcarrier signal is limited to an upper threshold.
8. Method according to claim 7,
characterized in that
in case along with equalization (1, 1') the upper threshold is reached for a subcarrier signal, the transmission power of the corresponding subcarrier signal is fixed at the upper threshold value and the modulation scheme for said subcarrier signal is adapted.
9. Method according to claim 8,
characterized in that
the adaptation of the modulation scheme of a subcarrier signal is signaled to the receiving side (6).
10. Method according to claim 8 or 9,
to adapt the modulation scheme of a subcarrier signal, the modulation scheme is simplified.
11. Method according to claim 8 to 10,
to adapt the modulation scheme of a subcarrier signal, the subcarrier signal is not modulated at all.
12. Method according to anyone of claims 8 to 11,
in case the modulation scheme of a subcarrier signal is adapted to reduce the bit rate of this subcarrier signal, the modulation scheme of at least one other subcarrier signal is changed to a more complex modulation scheme.
13. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
the detection (11, 11') of the frequency channel characteristics is performed on the basis of received pilot symbols.
14. Computer software program product,
characterized in that
it implements a method according to anyone of the preceding claims when run on a computing device of a transmitting device.
15. Transmission diversity device adapted for adjusting the transmission characteristics of subcarriers of a multicarrier transmission system and having a plurality of antenna elements (3, 3'),
the transmission diversity device (5) comprising:
- means (11, 11') for detecting the frequency subcarrier channel (2, 2') characteristics of the multicarrier transmission, and
 - a pre-equalizer (1, 1') for dividing the transmission signal by the amplitude characteristics of the corresponding subcarrier channel (2, 2').
16. Device according to claim 15,
characterized in that
the pre-equalizer (1, 1') furthermore comprises a division means (10, 10') dividing the subcarrier signals respectively by the sum (9) of the squared magnitude of the frequency channel characteristics of all sub-carrier signals.
17. Device according to claim 15 or 16,
characterized in that
it further more comprises a phase compensator (1, 1') for adjusting the phase of the subcarriers respectively according to the detected frequency channel characteristics (11, 11').
18. Device according to anyone of the claims 15 to 17,
characterized in that
the equalizer (1, 1') limits the power of the subcarrier to an upper threshold.
19. Device according to anyone of claims 15 to 18,
characterized in that
it is a base station (5) of a wireless transmission system.

FIG 1

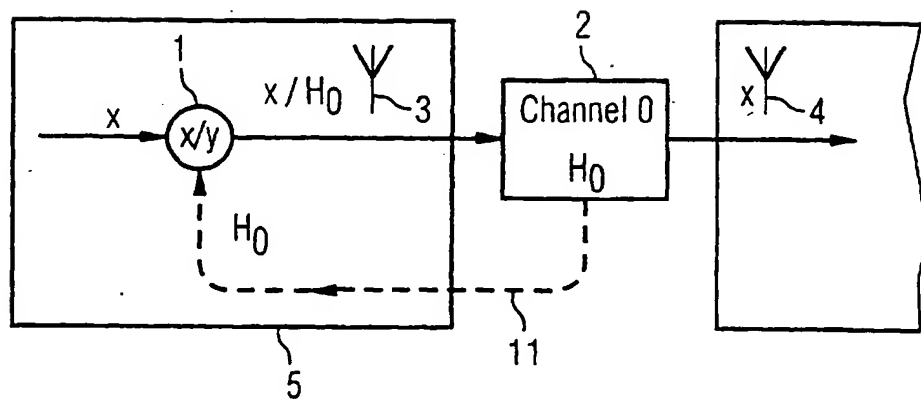


FIG 2

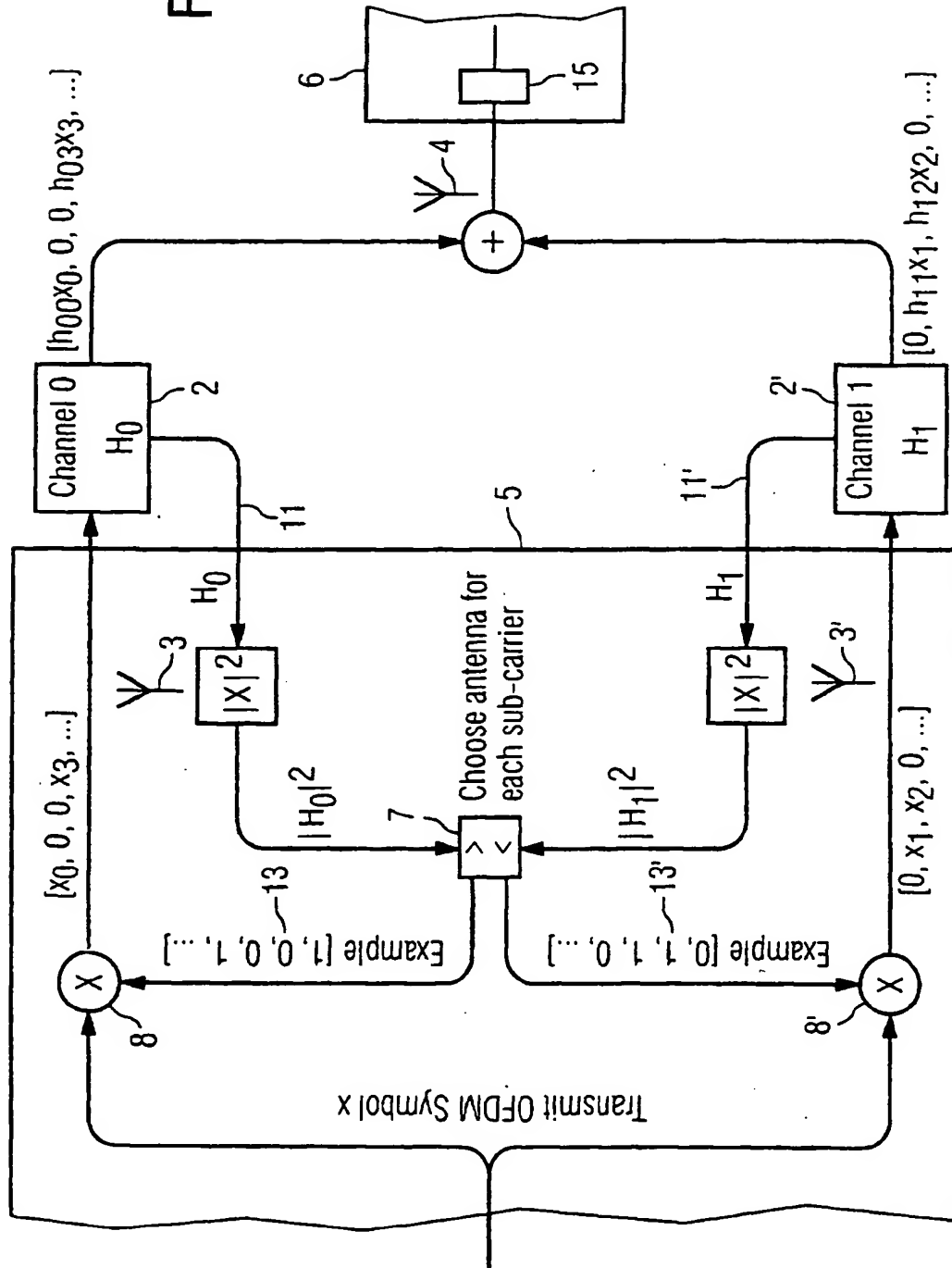


FIG 3

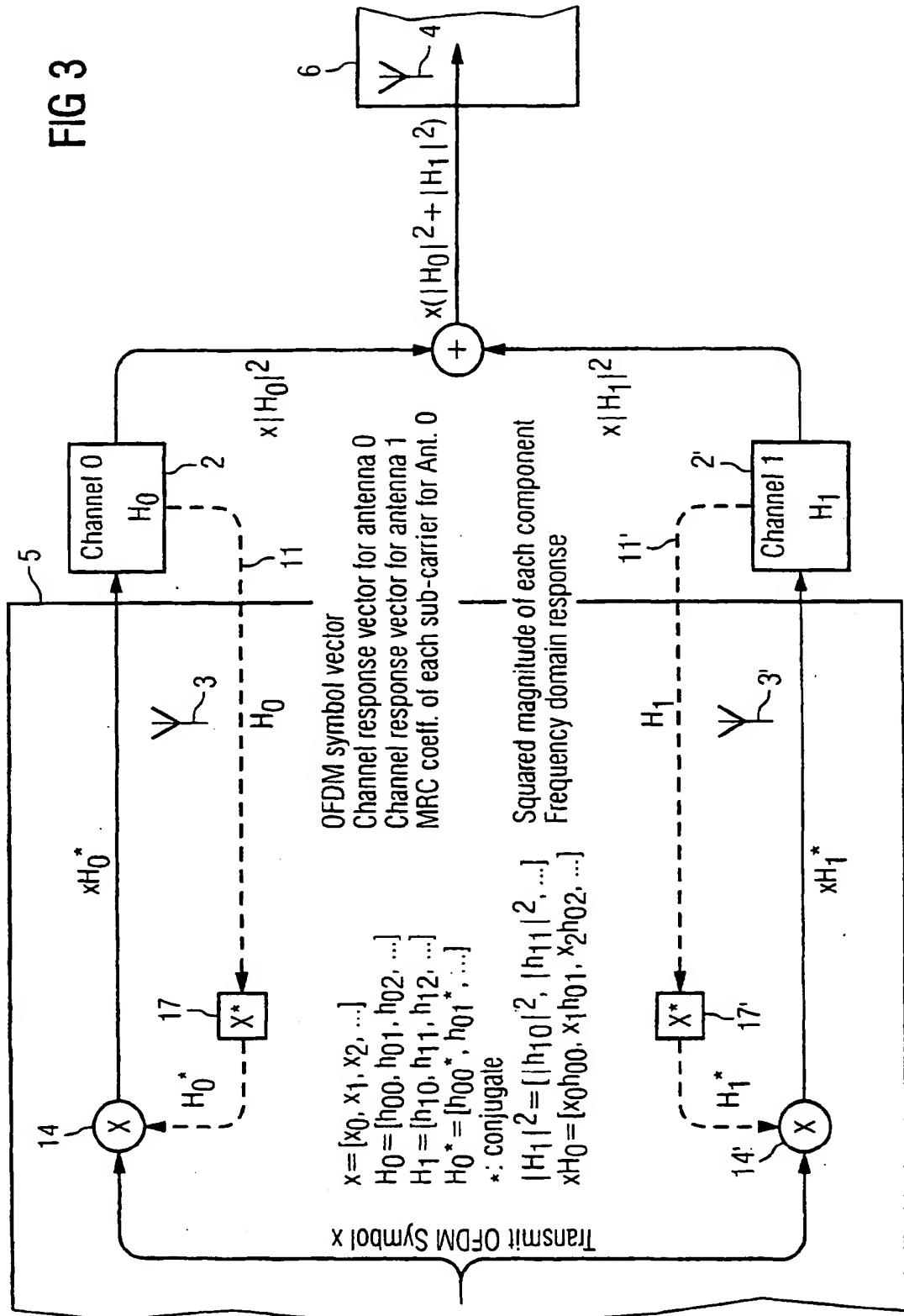


FIG 4

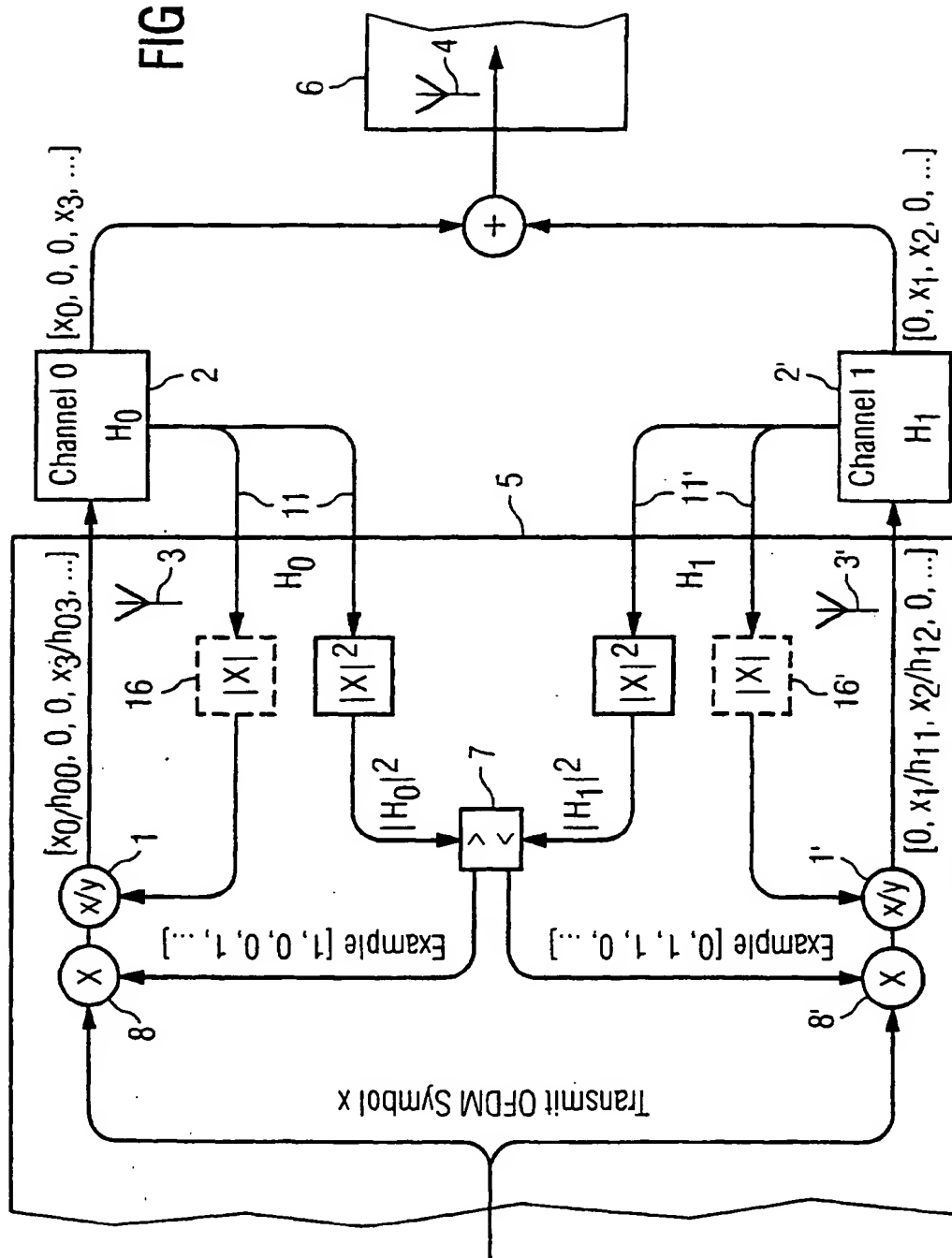


FIG 5

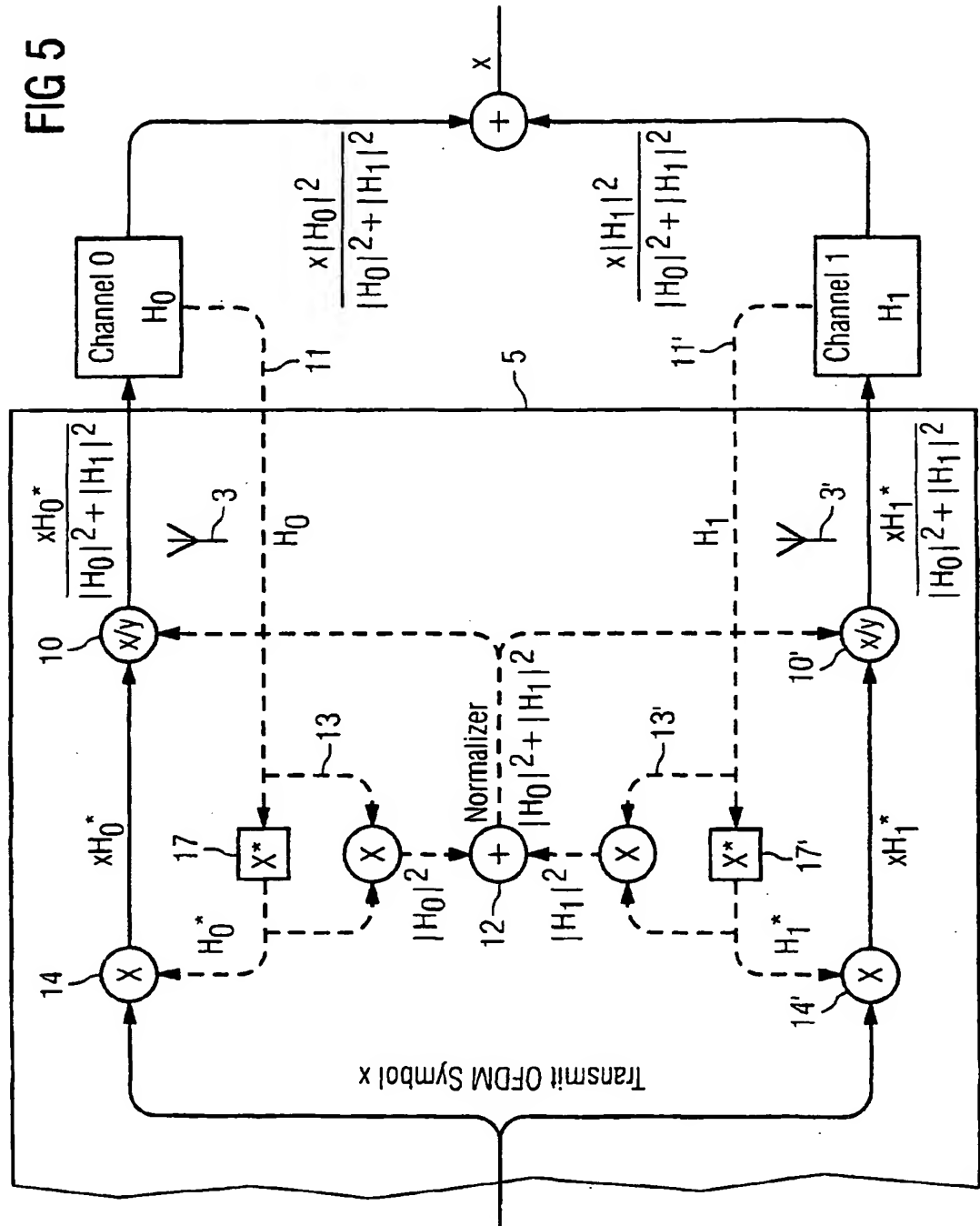
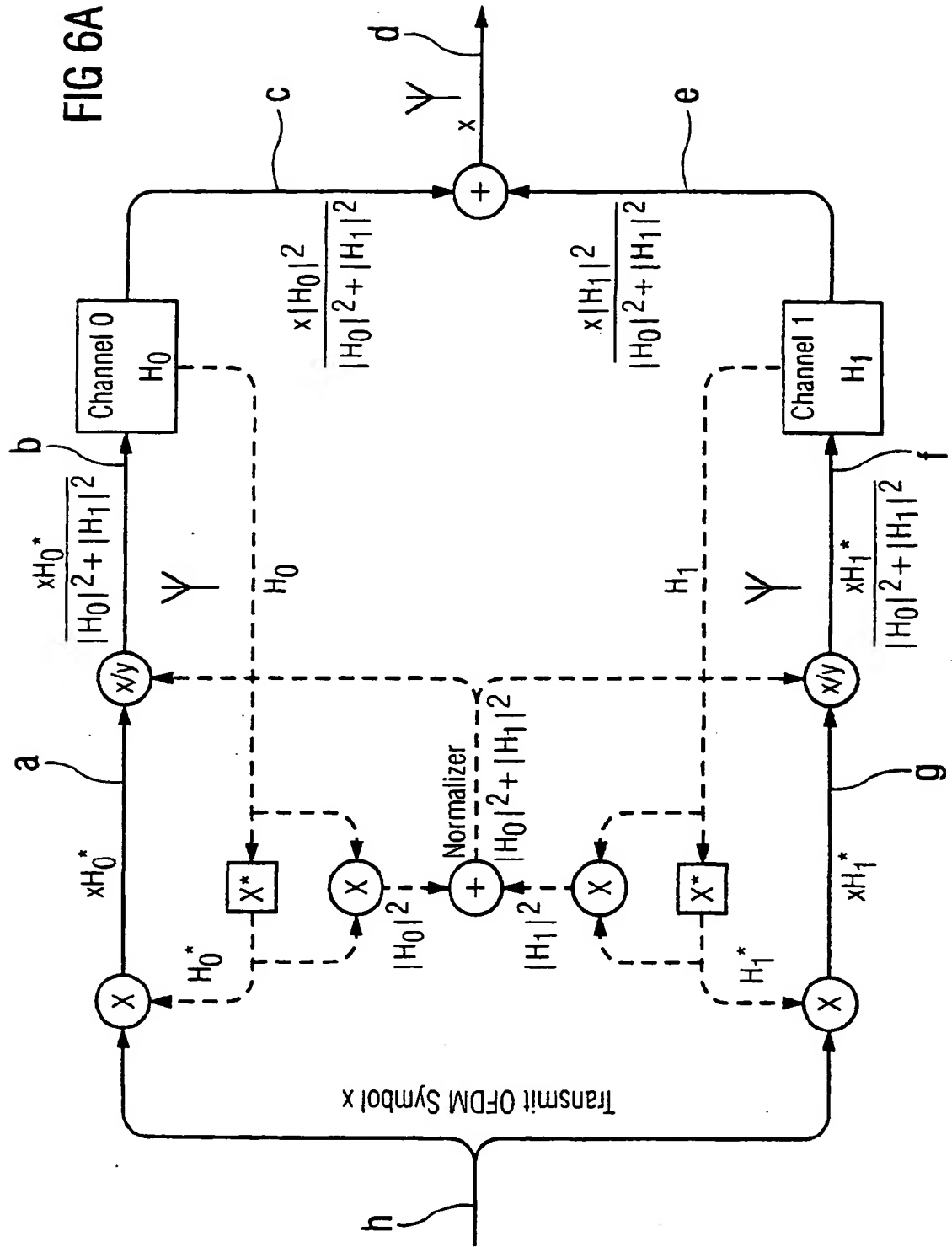


FIG 6A



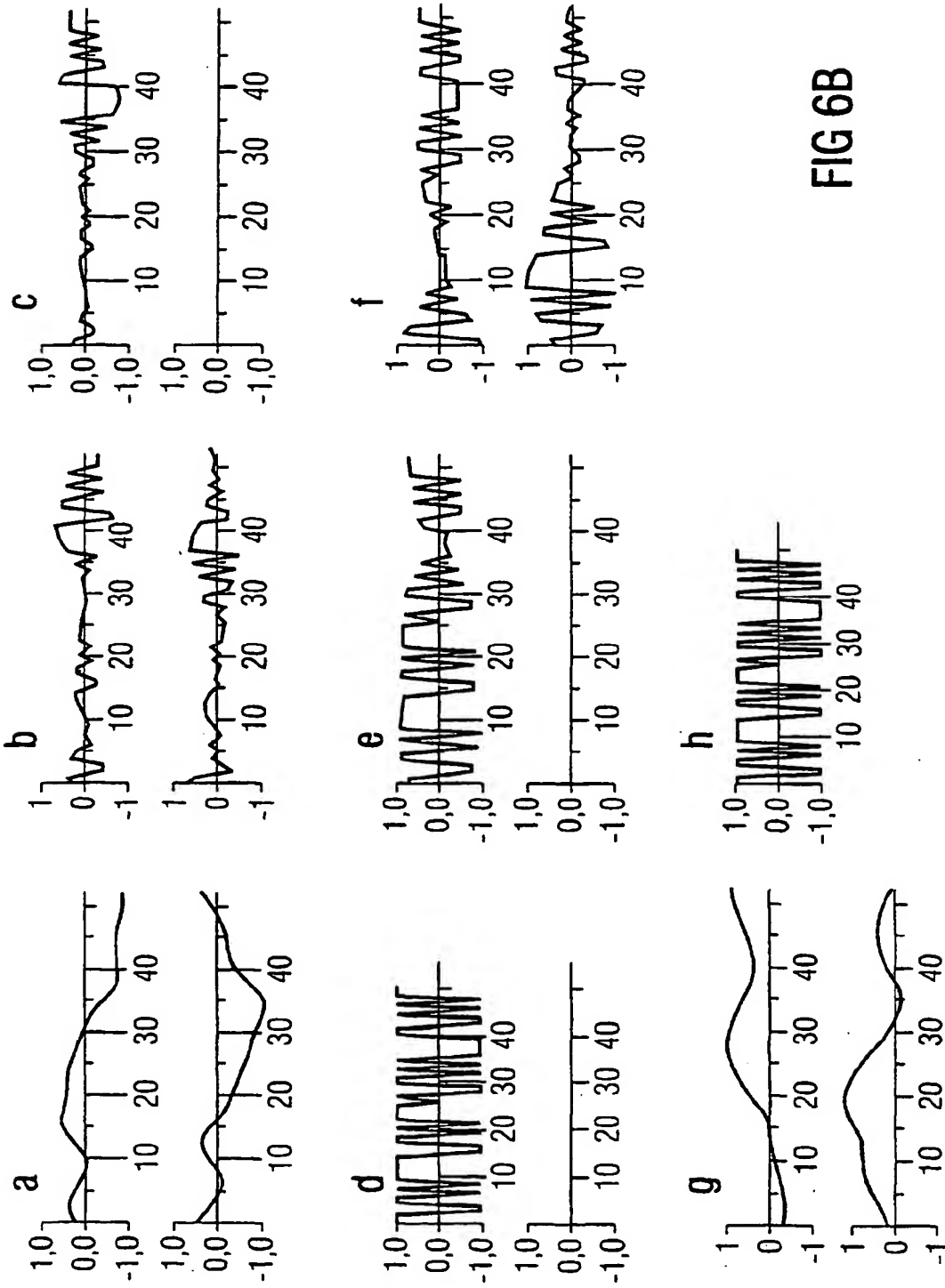


FIG 6B



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 12 5436

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	KELLER T ET AL: "Sub-band adaptive pre-equalised OFDM transmission" IEEE VTC 50TH VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE (CAT. NO.99CH36324), 19 - 22 September 1999, pages 334-338, XP002144719 Piscataway, NJ, USA ISBN: 0-7803-5436-2 * the whole document *	1,4, 7-12,14	H04L27/26 H04L25/03 H04B7/06
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A		2	
Y	US 6 131 016 A (SOLLENBERGER NELSON RAY ET AL) 10 October 2000 (2000-10-10) * the whole document *	5,6,15, 17-19	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 10 July 2001	Examiner: Koukourlis, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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